

# CHAMBERS'S EDINBURGH JOURNAL

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## ADVANCEMENT IN LIFE.

THE last number of the Journal contained the conclusion of a pretty ample list of persons who originally were in very humble and apparently unfavourable circumstances, but eventually rose, through the force of talent and application, to eminent situations in life. That list was drawn up, and presented in our humble, but, we earnestly hope, useful pages, as a means of furnishing every poor boy into whose hands it might chance to fall, with some hope of also escaping from his native condition, and shining out hereafter as a superior character.

It is very certain that all men are not born to be Franklins, and, likewise, that if any considerable number of such persons were to arise, their utility and their distinction would be diminished. There is a good old proverb, however—"aim at a silk gown, and you may get a sleeve of it;" which may be followed out, both to the advantage of individuals and to the benefit of the community. As it, therefore, would seem proper that every means should be taken to inspire youth with the ambition of well-doing, we make no apology for laying the following general observations before the public.

First, there is one great maxim that no youth should ever want before his eyes, namely, that hardly any thing is beyond the attainment of real merit. Let a man set up almost any object before him on entering life, and, if his ambition be of that genuine kind which springs from talent, and is *not too much for his prudence*, there is a strong chance in his favour that a keen and steady pursuit of the object will make him triumph at last. It is very common, when the proposal of a young man's entry into life is discussed, to hear complaints as to the pre-occupation of every field of adventure by unemployed multitudes. There may occasionally be some cause for this; but the general truth is undeniable, that, in spite of every disadvantage, men are rising daily to distinction in every profession—the broadest shoulders, as usual, making their way best through the crowd. It is the slothful and the fearful that generally make such complaints; and they obviously do so in order to assure themselves that they are not altogether wrong in continuing to misspend their time. When we hear of the over-crowded state of any proposed profession, we are apt to overlook that an immense proportion of those engaged in it are destined, by the weakness of their character, and want of specific qualifications, to make no way for themselves, and must soon be the same, so far as rivalry is concerned, as if they had never entered it. If the entrant, then, has only a well-grounded confidence in his own powers of exertion and perseverance, he need hardly be afraid to enter any profession. With the serious desire of well-doing at heart, and some tolerable share of ability, he is sure very soon to get ahead of a great proportion of those already in the field. Only let him never despair—that is, tell himself it is all in vain, in order that he may become idle with a good conscience—and there is hardly any fear of him.

The present writer entertains some different ideas respecting original humility of circumstances from what are generally prevalent. The common notion is, that humble circumstances are a great obstruction at the outset of life, and that the more difference between a man's origin and his eventual condition, the greater is the wonder, and the greater his merit. Since it appears, however, that so large a proportion of distinguished men were poor at the beginning, a question may naturally arise, are not men just the more apt, on that account, to become eminent? Al-

though we are all familiar as possible with instances of fortunes made from nothing, it will be found, on recollection, that cases are comparatively rare of men who began with fortunes having ended by greatly increasing them. Many a poor boy has made twenty thousand pounds before he was forty years of age; but few who had ten thousand at the age of majority are found to double it with their years. Here—here is a reason for hope. The fact is, large sums are not to be acquired without an appreciation and an understanding of the meanest financial details. To make pounds, we must know the value of shillings; we must have felt before how much good could sometimes be done, how much evil could sometimes be avoided, *by the possession of a single penny!* For want of this knowledge, the opulent youth squanders or otherwise loses more, perhaps, than he gains. But he who has risen from the ranks knows the value and powers of every sum, from the lowest upwards, and, *as saving is the better part of the art of acquiring money*, he never goes back a step—his whole march is **ONWARD**. At the very worst, it is only a question of time. Say one man begins at twenty with a good capital, and another at the same age with none. For want of experience, and through other causes above mentioned, it is not likely that the former person has made much advance within the first ten years. Now, ten years is an immense space to the individual who only commenced with good resolutions. In that time, if he has not accumulated actual money, he may quite well have secured good reputation and credit, which, prudently managed, is just money of another kind. And so, while still a young man, he is pretty much upon a par with him who seemed to start with such superior advantages. In fact, fortune, or original good circumstances, appear to the present writer as requisites of a very unimportant character, compared with talent, power of application, self-denial, and honourable intentions. The *fortunate*—to use the erroneous language of common life—are selected from those who have possessed the latter indispensable qualifications in their best combinations; and as it is obvious that young men of fortune (necessarily the smaller class) have only a chance, according to their numbers, of possessing them, it follows, as a clear induction, that the great mass of the prosperous were originally poor.

**TALENT.**—It is a common cry that those who succeed best in life are the dullest people, and that talent is too fine a quality for common pursuits. There cannot be a greater fallacy than this. It may be true that some decidedly stupid people succeed through the force of a dogged resolution, which hardly any man of superior genius could have submitted to. But I am disposed to dispute, in a great measure, the existence of talent, where I do not find it at once productive of superior address in ordinary affairs, and attended by a magnanimity which elevates the possessor above all paltry and vicious actions. The genius which only misleads its possessor from the paths of prudence, or renders him a ridiculous and intolerable member of society, is too much allied to Bedlam to be taken into account; and in reality there is nowhere so much of what is called genius as in the mad-houses.\* The imputation of dullness to a man who has prospered in life, will be found by impartial inquirers, in nine cases out of ten, to be a mere consolatory appliance to the self-love of one who has neither had the talent nor the morality to prosper in life himself. Let every man, then, who possesses this gift,

rejoice in it with all his heart, and seek by every means to give it proper guidance and direction.

**APPLICATION** is another of the indispensable requisites. Detached efforts, though they may individually be great, can never tell so well in the aggregate as a regular and constant exertion, where the doings of one day fortify and improve the doings of the preceding, and lead on with certainty to the better doings of the next. It is not economical to work by fits and starts; more exertion is required, by that system, for a certain end, than what is necessary in the case of a continuous effort, and thus the irregular man is apt to fall far behind his rivals. Men of ability are apt to despise application as a mean and grubbing qualification—which is only a piece of overweening self-love on their part, and likely to be the very means of frustrating all the proper results of their ability. On the other hand, the industrious man is apt to despair for want of ability—not seeing that the clever fellows are liable to the weakness we describe, which causes them to be constantly giving way in the race to mere plodders. Besides, while few faults are more common than an over-estimation of one's self, it is equally obvious that many men only discover their abilities by chance, and that all of us possess latent powers, which might be turned to good account, if we only knew and had confidence in them. No man, therefore, should be too easily dashed on the subject of his abilities. He should try, and, with the aid of a persevering industry, he may do wonders such as he never dreamt of.

**SELF-DENIAL.**—Perhaps among all the qualifications which, in a combined form, lead to fortune, none is more absolutely indispensable than this. A man may have talent, may have application, both in abundance; but if he cannot resist vulgar temptations, all is in vain. The Scotch, as a nation, are characterised immensely by self-denial, and it is the main ground of their prosperity both at home and abroad. It is one of the noblest of the virtues, if not, indeed, the sole virtue which creates all the rest. If we are obliged at every moment to abandon some sacred principle in order to gratify a paltry appetite; if the extensive future is perpetually to be sacrificed for the sake of the momentary present; if we are to lead a life of Esau-like bargains from the first to the last—then we are totally unfit for any purpose above the meanest. Self-indulgence makes brutes out of gods: self-denial is the tangent line by which human nature trenches upon the divine. Now, self-indulgence is not inherent except in very few natures; it is almost invariably the result of "evil communications" in youth, and generally becomes a mere use or habit. The most of error arises from the contagion of example. A youth at first debauches himself because he sees others do it; he feels, all the time, as if he were sacrificing merely to the glory of bravado; and there is far more of martyrdom in it than is generally supposed. But though a person at first smokes in order to show how much disgust he can endure, he soon comes to have a real liking for tobacco. And thus, for the paltriest indulgences, which only are so from vicious habit, and perhaps, after all, involve as much dissatisfaction as pleasure, we daily see the most glorious and ennobling objects cast, as it were, into hellfire.

We are by no means hostile to all amusement. The mass of men require a certain quantity of amusement almost as regularly as their daily food. But amusement may be noxious or innocent, moderate or immoderate. The amusements which can be enjoyed in the domestic circle, or without company at all, are the safest; there is great danger in all which require an association of individuals to carry them into effect.

\* This remark is borrowed from the conversation of a medical friend.

Upon the whole, a multitude of bosom friends is the most pernicious evil that ever besets a man in the world. Each becomes a slave to the depraved appetites of the rest, and is at last ulcerated all over with their various evil practices. At the very best, he is retarded to the general pace, and never finds it possible to get a single vantage hour, in order to steal a march upon his kind.

HONOURABLE INTENTIONS are also indispensably necessary. The reverse is simply want of sense and understanding; for it is obvious to every one who has seen the least of human life, that infinitely more is lost in reputation and means and opportunities of well-being, by an attempt to gain an undue advantage, than what can in general cases be gained. If we had to live only for a short time certain, trickery might be the most expedient course, so far as this world is concerned; but if a man contemplates a life above a single twelvemonth, he will endeavour, by the guarded correctness of his actions, to acquire the good character which tends so much to eventual prosperity. The dishonest man, in one sense, may be termed the most monstrous of all self-flatters: he thinks he can cheat the whole of the remaining part of mankind—which certainly is no trifling compliment. He soon finds, however, that he was seen through all the time by those whom he thought mere children, and his blindness and silly arrogance receive their deserved punishment. Even where the depravity may be of a very slight kind, it is alike in vain. In ordinary transactions, the one party deals with the other exactly according to his character: if the one be in general disposed to overreach, the other is just proportionably on his guard; so that there is no result but trouble, and a bad name. One thing should be strongly impressed upon such persons: they are far more generally understood and watched than they are aware of; for the world, so long as it can simply take care of itself without much difficulty, is not disposed to adopt the dangerous task of a monitor. The police-officer knows of many rogues whom he passes every day on the street; he never lays hold of any, unless for some particular offence.

Such are the principal qualities necessary for advancement in life, though any one of them, without much or any of the other, will, if not counteracted by negative properties, be sure to command a certain degree of success. He who is about to start in the race would do well to ponder upon the difficulties he has to encounter, and make up a manful resolution to meet them with a full exertion of all his powers. To revert to the general question—what is it that enables one man to get in advance of his fellows? The answer is obvious—it can only be his doing more than the generality of them, or his enduring more privation than they are generally inclined to do [that is, self-denial], in order that he may acquire increased power of doing. The fault of most unsuccessful persons is their want of an adequate idea of what is to be done, and what is to be endured. They enter business as into a game or a sport, and they are surprised, after a time, to find that there is a principle in the affair they never before took into account—namely, the tremendous competition of other men. Without being able to do and suffer as much as the best men of business, the first place is not to be gained: without being able to do and suffer as much as the second order of men of business, the second place is not to be gained: and so on. New candidates should therefore endeavour to make an estimate of the duties necessary for attaining a certain point, and not permit themselves to be thrown out in the race for want of a proper performance of those duties. They should either be pretty certain of possessing the requisite powers of exertion and endurance, or aim at a lower point, to which their powers may seem certainly adequate.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

We stated in a former article, that, in the animated kingdom of Nature, there appeared to be one general chain of being, from man down to the lowest degree of animated existence. How numerous, therefore, must be the links of that chain! This has rendered indispensable the conventional institution of systems, so as to enable us the more easily to trace and investigate the history, character, and relations, of any animal, plant, or mineral, which may come under our notice. Without such systematic arrangements, the task would be next to an impossibility.

It was not till the time of Linnaeus, that systematic arrangement was brought to any thing like perfection. This great naturalist reduced all natural objects into three great divisions; these he termed kingdoms—namely, the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral kingdoms. Each of these he again subdivided into classes, orders, genera, species, and varieties.

Let us trace the superstructure of the system to its simplest elements. All animals, which are alike in every particular, are of the same species. For example, the sky-lark is a distinct species. Climate and accidental circumstances may produce a variety; but its specific distinctions will ever remain the same. Now, almost every one knows, that there are several kinds

of larks, which, upon the whole, are very much alike, but, when examined minutely, have characters, or parts, differing from each other in size, the colour of the various parts of their plumage, the colour of their eyes, bills, and legs, the length of their toes, nails, and legs, with various other trivial distinctions, which constitute them of different species. These, in a state of nature, by a wise law, abstain from sexual intercourse, and thus maintain in purity their race to the end of time.

In Britain, we have the sky-lark, tit-lark, field-lark, wood-lark, red-lark, &c, all having well marked distinctions, but all agreeing in having certain characters; such as cylindrical-shaped bills, which are oval-shaped; the upper and under mandible, or chaps, both of equal length, and opening a little at the base; their tongues are cleft at the points; the claws of the back toes are longer than the toes themselves, and nearly straight. This, then, is their generic character, which Linnaeus considered as entitling them to be brought under one genus. Let us compare this generic character with that of the parrots, and we shall at once see the distinction. Bills hooked, the upper mandible moveable, and in general furnished with a skin called a cere, which covers its lower half; the under mandible is cut off at the point, as if incomplete; the tongue is fleshy, blunt at the point, and not cleft. There are a vast variety of parrots, all agreeing in these particulars, but very different in point of size, colour, and other peculiarities. These, of course, are so many different species of parrots. We now come to the formation of orders, which comprehend a plurality of genera. The birds which we have above chosen as illustrations are of different orders. The larks are of the order called Passarines, all the genera of which agree in the following particulars. They have conical sharp-pointed bills; their nostrils are generally naked and oval; their feet are formed for walking, or hopping, with three toes before, and one behind; and feed on seeds, plants, and worms. Now the parrots belong to an order called Lepidostreps, or smooth-bills. The bills are remarkable for their size and strength; they are always of a convex form, more or less crooked; the toes are formed for climbing. They feed on the fruits of plants, nuts, &c. The number of orders vary according to the opinions of different naturalists, who have constructed systems; but birds, taken generally, constitute one class. When to these we add the classes of quadrupeds, fishes, insects, shells, &c. we make up what is termed the animal kingdom. When, therefore, an object is presented to us which we have never before seen, we first refer it to a class; we next compare it with the characters of the orders; and having ascertained to which it belongs, we trace it to its genus; and, having satisfied ourselves as to this, we next endeavour to ascertain its species. Here, then, an animal has been sent to us; we find it belongs to the class called Birds; that it is of the Passarine order, that is, an Alauda, or lark; and that, from its specific character, it must be that charming songster—the harbinger of the morning—the sky-lark, who is heard,

From its watch tower in the skies,  
 Ere the dappled dawn doth rise.

It will thus be seen how perfectly simple and natural systems are, and that, without their aid, the innumerable objects in the great field of nature must present themselves to us in a confused mass; and, by their aid we can now readily trace every object to its proper station in the system of Nature. We shall first treat of the animal kingdom.

Since the time of Linnaeus, has arisen that great genius, and profound comparative anatomist, Cuvier, who has remodelled the system of Linnaeus, in his great work, called, "The Animal Kingdom." His system is a natural one, founded on the organization and essential resemblances of living beings. It may be compared to a kind of chart of animal life, and shews us, at one comprehensive view, all the great leading characters and varied forms, from which are founded the four grand divisions of the animal kingdom; namely,—I. VERTEBRATED ANIMALS, or those animals which have a backbone, or spine. II. MOLLUSCOS ANIMALS, or animals which are destitute of a spine, or bones of any kind, as snails, &c. III. ARTICULATED ANIMALS, which have no internal bones, but whose members are articulated by an external crust or shell, as crabs, &c.; and, IV. RADIATED ANIMALS, or such as those whose members radiate from a common centre, as exemplified in star-fish, &c.

There are two leading characters which are common to all animals; these are sensation and motion. The brain and nervous system are the channels by which all the animal functions are conveyed; while the heart and its accessory organs, nutrition and generation, are what may be termed the vegetative functions, and are common to both animals and plants. Sensation exists in the nervous system. As we descend in the scale of being, these agents gradually become less perfect, till they finally disappear, or grow imperceptible to human scrutiny—if they really exist at all; and the muscles or flesh gives place to a shapeless mass of animal matter, a mere pulp.

#### THE PLAGUE-SHIP.

The following impressive story was first published a few years ago in the Edinburgh Observer newspaper, to which it was contributed, among other excellent articles in prose and verse, by Mr Andrew Bellfripe Picken, a youth of no ordinary talent, but who, we regret to think, has ultimately seen fit to cast his lot on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr Picken, whom we knew from boyhood to more advanced life, was a leading individual in the expedition to Poyais, and it was while returning from that unfortunate enterprise that he picked up the impressions embodied in "The Plague-Ship."

SOME years ago, Carl Andersen, the mate of the Mayflower, and the original narrator of the following occurrences, was associated, by necessitous circumstances, with the mob of ragged and sun-burnt adventurers that infest the quays and landing places of Campeachy, and gather their miserable livelihood by assisting in the shipment of sugar and indigo cargoes, or any other office of drudgery at which the slave is permitted to turn up his nose. These sort of rabble are common to all the seaports of the West Indies, but in particular to those of Havannah and Campeachy. In the latter place they are very numerous, and are mostly to be met with on the moles and quays near the harbour, sauntering idly up and down, or squatted in the dirt, playing at cards, or extracting chiggers and worms from their feet, exhibiting the most disgusting picture of filth and indolence the traveller can meet with either in Europe or America—the Neapolitan lazzaroni, and the Gitanas of Madrid, not excepted. The chinganahs or coffeehouses of Campeachy are, particularly during the heat of the day, infested with these vagabonds, though their beverage is rarely confined to that refreshing liquid. They meet in those places in such numbers that the smoke of their segars may be seen issuing in a continued stream through the geloooses and other apertures of the house, as if from a confined fire, while the ringing of flagnes, the loud discord of voices, among which, ever and anon, the piercing treble to which the angry negress can so well elevate her tones, awakens like the scream of a peacock, strike the ear with a clamour, which, on a near approach, is absolutely deafening. There are many circumstances which combine to render the chinganah a scene of merriment: all sorts of itinerant musicians, jugglers, and mountebanks, are there permitted to pursue their vocations; and it is not unfrequent to find a company of dancers and a trained monkey performing antics to the same guitar; sometimes, also, Carib children, who are particularly dexterous in the use of the bush knife, exhibit a sort of gladiator game, which consists in throwing these weapons at each other, and catching them in the air before they have time to do injury. I have witnessed those feats at different times, and it is singular that they were never attended with any bad consequences. It is no wonder, therefore, that the chinganahs should be the favourite resort of the rabble I have alluded to, when they afford such ample and constant means of beguiling the time which hangs so heavy on their hands.

It so happened that a group of those worthies was stationed one evening under a bungalow or small shed, erected for the shelter of goods, upon one of the quays. The sun had descended into an abyss of huge clouds that gathered over him like conquerors, darkening his glorious path with deep and stormy shadows, and reflecting his farewell smile upon the world with a lurid and brassy glare. Those banners of the tempest were not long in imparting their gloomy colours to every object beneath them, and the white-walled houses of Campeachy, which a little while before had blushed beneath the declining ray, now shrunk into obscurity, and speckled the gathered darkness like tombs of Italian marble, peering through the gloom of a cemetery. Andersen and his companions had been waiting for the arrival of a vessel, whose approach had been announced by the island telegraph two days before, but which had been kept beating about in the offing by head winds ever since. This day, however, had been remarkably calm and sultry, and the loiterers, who had expected to profit by her arrival, after lingering till expectation became vain, had disappeared one after another, so that the solitary group I have mentioned was all that remained to face the squall that seemed bearing overland. Before it set in, they were hailed from the water by a negro pilot, named Mingo, who was bringing up his canoe, with an appearance of anxiety and fatigue. Andersen returned his halloo. "What cheer, Mingo?" "A plague-ship! a plague-ship!" was his immediate reply, as with two or three heavy strokes he ran his craft up to the landing. His relation was received with mingled curiosity and indifference. Andersen contemned the idea of danger, and most of his companions had never heard of the contagion but as a sort of yellow fever to which they were familiar. It was, therefore, a matter of speculation and interest to them, but not of alarm. The pilot informed them that the strange vessel was a brig from Cadiz, which he had gone out to meet in the morning. She was now brought to anchor on the lee-side of a small quay covered with mangroves, and had suffered much from stress of weather; the island, however, presented a sort of shelter for the meantime, and she was likely to ride out the gale in safety. He had been surprised on coming within hail of the vessel, to perceive no person upon deck, and was at a loss whether to make the customary signals, or to run his craft round to leeward at once. He did not remain long in uncertainty—his first halloo had the effect of calling up a single figure from the forehatch, who invited his ap-

prosper with hurried and frequent gestures, and he ran his doree alongside. The sailor leant over the gangway, and as Mingo raised his eyes towards him, he was struck with the appearance of ghastly and death-like languor which he presented. He spoke in Spanish, with a low exhausted voice, and informed the terrified pilot that the vessel contained the plague—that it had first broken out in the Gulf of Florida, when the hatches were opened to stop a leak, and that it had been brought from Barcelona with some bales of cloth, which had been shipped at Cadiz for Vera Cruz. "We are all dying," said the poor wretch, wringing his hands, "we are all dying." Mingo set his feet in the chains, and sprang up to look over the sideway; two men were lying dead upon their faces in the leescuppers, and a third was reclining against the caboose, with his head thrown back, his teeth set, his eyes strained, and his hands clenched, as if he had expired in despair. One look of those dismal objects was sufficient for the little pilot, who leapt back into his canoe instantly, and put off from the vessel, regardless of the melancholy cry that adjured his stay only to convey a message to the shore; and it was not until he had almost exhausted himself in rowing, that he ventured to rest his paddle, and pause for respiration. The vessel was still within hail, and Mingo could perceive the same solitary individual pacing the deck, and tossing his arms distractedly above his head. After several turns in this manner, he appeared to stop opposite the caboose, as if he was contemplating, with a sort of desperate firmness, the object from which the pilot had retreated. Mingo then observed him stoop, as if to raise the dead body from its recumbent position, and having lifted it, with great apparent effort, to the taffarel, let it drop overboard. The white spray leapt up against the ship's side for a moment as it fell, and the sailor leant faintly over the bulwarks, either overcome by the exertion, or watching the eddies which the sinking carcass left upon the surface of the water. Mingo's heart sickened within him, and, feeling a kind of insecurity while he shared the same element with the infected vessel, he made for the land with the utmost eagerness. Andersen and his associates were the first who received his intelligence. I recollect well the manner in which Andersen related this part of the story, and it will be told better in his own words.

"What was the plague to us," said he, "who were compelled to risk our lives for almost every mouthful we swallowed—to us who had spent merry privateering lives through all the long French war—to us who had tracked the Guineamen to their bushair, and waded up to the very ankles in blood before we left it? Had we not, besides, seen the eyes running out of their heads with the horrid disease which is peculiar to slave traders?—what was the plague to us?—not the whiff of a cigarette! 'Come, my lads,' cried I, 'we will count the *pesos* of the Spanish skipper—we will see whether the sea water will not wash the plague from his Barcelona cravats.' They would have followed me to Davy Jones, who was just beginning to sound his whistle overhead; but the scud was fair for the ship, and we had all seen the weather-side of Davy's face before now; so we unfastened Mingo's doree, as soon as the cowardly lubber, who was lipful of the story, had gone up with the news to the commandant's house, and put off for the plague-ship. It was now as dark as the grave, but we kept her close before the wind, which was almost due south; and we knew that, in that case, we were standing fair for the Mangrove Key. It was then, skipper, while Mingo's cock-boat was mounting like one of Mother Carey's birds over the black waves, that were rising like Leviathans around us—it was then—I remembered the oyster sledges that used to carry me, like 'Will o' the Wisp, over the icy tracks of my own country, and my whole heart leapt up to my throat, with a feeling of wild and measureless exultation. As the surges tossed our slight craft in the air, I recollect all those happy feelings; and, wringing the spray from my hair, I called to mind one of my old Norse ditties, and piped it loudly and willingly to the gale that was passing over us. Ha, ha!—I did not think I had so much of the young slip left in me; but I neither feared the devil nor the deep sea."

There are very few better sea-boats than the crears of the West Indian pilots, and few who are more expert in managing them than the stivie doers, as they are called, of Campeachy. The reckless adventurers reached their destination in safety. The Mangrove Keys were an archipelago in miniature, and formed a kind of semicircle, in the centre of which, sufficiently screened from the weather, the "pesthouse of the waters" floated in perfect security. There was a dim light twinkling in the binnacle, that discovered to Andersen and his companions the same solitary wretch mentioned by the pilot, still reclining on the taffarel, with his arms folded drowsily beneath his head, as if he had been yet watching the body he had consigned to the waters. He did not appear to distinguish the canoe, though the desperadoes that manned her ran her close up to the ship's side, and shouted lustily for a rope's end; neither was there the slightest attention paid to the demand, though it was urged with a volley of Spanish execrations, which could not fail at least to be understood. A wave hove the slight craft near to the gangway, and one of the crew laying hold of the chains, the canoe yawned close, and the whole company leapt easily on board. Andersen, as self-appointed leader of the enterprise, was

the first who approached the "watch on deck," and he shouldered his long paddle with an air of menace as he did so, which was meant to impress the sufferer with the conviction that in this case "might would constitute right." The watchman did not move, however, and a suspicion, which a moment's scrutiny confirmed, occurred to Andersen, and overcame his determined indifference—with a feeling of involuntary dread. The Spaniard was a corpse—and at the very time when Andersen became aware of the fact, the vessel gave a sudden lurch, and the body fell back upon the quarter-deck. Andersen retreated in disgust, and the creoles lifted the body, and threw it overboard. They then advanced to the companion; and, looking down, Andersen perceived that the cabin, which the creoles were in some hesitation to enter, was lighted by a small lantern suspended from a bulk head. "Pray for me, my hearties," cried the Norwegian, "for I'll bide this risk by myself," and he descended the trap-stair at two steps.

Oh! what a scene of utter misery and desolation did that dark and confined apartment present to him, and how welcome was the first breath of the cold and pure atmosphere that he inhaled as he retreated at first with an impulse of horror from its infected precincts! It was the very charnel-house of the plague, and the crew of the vessel were mingled there without distinction; some dead, and some whose feeble moanings were the last exertions of exhausted nature. Its victims in the first stages of the disease had forsaken the forecastle, the close contaminated air of which was imbued with destruction, and had gathered in the cabin, whose lattices gave a free current to the breeze, and made it therefore the most eligible situation for the sufferers. The first object that arrested Andersen's attention, as he entered, was the countenance of a negro, probably the steward of the vessel, which was still distorted by the convulsions in which he had expired. He was reclining upon a locker immediately opposite the light, which fell upon his sable visage with an imposing and frightful effect. Turning from this object, the regards of the Norwegian were attracted to an obscure corner of the cabin, where, stretched on a low mattress, in an attitude of exhaustion and despair, lay the figure of a young female. A profusion of dark hair lay dishevelled on her pillow, and formed a strong contrast to the ashy paleness of her features; and her heavy voluptuous eyelids, deeply marked by long black fringes, appeared closed in a stupor from which she was never to awake. One white arm was folded listlessly over her bosom, as if to watch the expiring struggles of nature, and the other sustained a rosary of very large amber beads, that reflected the light of the cabin lantern with a warm and steady lustre. The sight of this valuable object restored the Norwegian to a sense of his interest, and at once swallowed up every feeling that interfered with it. It was, he considered, now perfectly useless to its possessor; and he approached to claim it, before the creoles, who had apparently mustered courage from his example, had descended the trap-stair. He plucked it hastily from the relaxed fingers of the dying girl, who opened her dim eyes for an instant, with a feeble exclamation in Spanish, and, immediately closing them again, breathed out her spirit with a heavy and convulsive sigh. It was the action of a moment, and before any of his associates had entered the cabin, he had secured his prize under his Guernsey frock; and if any human eye in that dismal place was aware of the theft, death had sealed it up ere it could betray it.

To dwell upon the proceedings of those desperadoes, during that long stormy night, and the feeble and unavailing resistance that was offered to them by a few dying wretches, who lay in an adjoining birth, would compel me to enter upon a detail of cruelties of which Andersen had long and sincerely repented before he related the adventure, and which, for his sake, I would now willingly forget. The centinels and night-watchers of Campeachy and its neighbourhood were astonished by an apparition, which borrowed a deeper character of terror from that wild and squalid night, and was not soon forgotten by those that witnessed it. The midnight gun had discharged its wonted signal; and though the gale was somewhat abated, the sky was loaded with black and dreary clouds, which still sent out arrows of fire as if the angels of the tempest were unwilling to forego their warfare. But though less vivid than those "electric wanderers," there suddenly arose through the blackness that pervaded the offing, a long fiery train, which appeared to be carried away by the wind as it ascended, as if some "mysterious monster of the deep" were flying up to heaven, and had tinged with a red lurid glare the low hung clouds that were drifting over it. This phenomenon lasted for at least an hour. At the end of that time it passed away with an explosion like the discharge of a cannon, which came booming over the disturbed waters with a lulled and heavy sound. The plague-ship was swallowed up in that dreadful conflagration, the dying and the dead were mingled in one funeral pile, and those who had set forth on that evening on their errand of plunder, had concluded it with an act of desperate and merciless wickedness.

"We stood up in our creear, skipper," said Andersen, "when we had rowed to a safe distance, and watched the progress of the flames, which were already bursting through the hatchways enveloped in sheets of smoke, and were reflected from the wet sails that flapped above them. There was one devoted sinner, strong in his agony, who staggered about the deck

like an antic fiend exulting in his own element. I think I still hear the shrill, searching cries of that doomed wretch—that rose above the gale in tones that were almost heart-breaking—but I dared not listen to them. Sometimes the fiery smoke whirled round him as if impatient for its prey, and for a moment stilled the accents of his despair, but the next they rose louder and louder, and ran through my head like a knife. Woe for me, skipper, if my penitence has been rejected in Heaven, for I shall hear those screams of agony again when the anchor of fate is fixed for ever."

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES.

THE following observations on the geographical distribution of diseases have been extracted from an excellent article on the subject in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, for October 1832, by Henry Marshall, Esq. Deputy-Inspector-General of Army Hospitals—

In some portions of the earth's surface particular diseases occur much more frequently than in others; and there are great divisions of the globe where certain specific diseases never, or very rarely, appear. The causes of the prevalence of diseases in one part of the world, while they are not found in another, are frequently involved in great obscurity. Sometimes they seem to depend upon the influence of meteorological phenomena; but they frequently happen where no satisfactory origin can be assigned. Wherever mankind exists, there disease of one kind or another will occur, whatever care may be taken to obviate its causes. Death will have its victims; and probably from one to five per cent. die annually, not only among the savage races, and other classes who undergo great privations and want of skilful medical attendance, but also among those orders of society which are furnished with every comfort and luxury that wealth can procure.

Examples of a deficiency of the skin, hair, and eyes, occur much more frequently among the inhabitants of intertropical [or hot] climates than in temperate latitudes. Albinoes [or persons of a supernaturally or extremely fair complexion] seem to be relatively more numerous in Africa than in Asia or America. The King of Ashantee collected nearly 100 white negroes. It is remarkable that the few Albinoes who have been born in Europe have been generally males. When Albinoes are matched with blacks, the progeny is either white or black, not brown coloured, like a mulatto. In the oriental archipelago [a large cluster of islands near Hindostan] Albinoes are not rare among quadrupeds.

The affection called *goitre* is common among the inhabitants of the valleys of the Alps, Appenines, and Pyrenees. In Savoy, Switzerland, the Tyrol, and Carinthia, there are villages in which the greater number of the inhabitants, more particularly of the female population, have some swelling of the neck. About two-thirds of the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum at Milan, when it was lately visited by a friend, suffered under this affection.

In the frozen regions of the north, the appetite for food and the power of digestion are commonly excessive. Captain Cochran, in his account of a Journey through Russia and Siberian Tartary, gives some remarkable illustrations of this fact. Admiral Saricheff states, that a Yakut informed him, "one of their men was accustomed to consume at home, in the space of a day or twenty-four hours, the hind quarter of a large ox, twenty pounds of fat, and a proportionate quantity of melted butter for his drink." The appearance of the man not justifying the assertion, the Admiral had a mind to try his gormandizing powers, and for this purpose he had a thick porridge of rice boiled down with three pounds of butter, weighing together twenty-eight pounds; and although the glutton had already breakfasted, yet did he sit down to it with the greatest eagerness, and consume the whole without stirring from the spot." Captain Cochran says, "I have repeatedly seen a Yakut, or a Tongouse, devour forty pounds of meat in a day;" and "I have seen three of these gluttons consume a reindeer at one meal." He adds, "I myself have finished a whole fish in a frozen state, which might have weighed two or three pounds; and, with black biscuit and a glass of rye brandy, have defied either nature or art to prepare a better meal."

The geographical distribution of the disease of stone (*calculus vesicæ*) seems to be, in a great measure, limited to the temperate latitudes. But even in temperate climates it is much more frequent in one place than in another a very short way distant. Dr Dancer states, that calculus never occurs in Jamaica. Dr Scott makes a similar statement in regard to Bombay. Dr Ainalie, who was for more than thirty years on the peninsula of India, says, "I have had occasion to attend both Hindoos and Musselmans suffering for gravel or stone."

Cancer.—This disease is, in a great measure, confined to the temperate latitudes. In Jamaica, Dr Dancer states that "cancer seldom occurs, and it is peculiar to water-drinkers."

The mean annual mortality of all ages in Great Britain has been found, by the census of 1821, to be about 1 in 58; but in round numbers I shall assume that it is 1 in 50, or 2 per cent. Now, according to the London Bills of mortality since 1808, it appears that one-fourth, or 25 per cent., of the deaths is on

casioned by consumption. If the proportion of consumption to general mortality be admitted to be as 1 to 4, and if it be granted that the annual mortality is to the population as 1 to 50, while, by the census of 1821, it is ascertained that the inhabitants of Great Britain amount to 14,391,631, it will be found that the annual number of victims to consumption in this island amounts to 71,358. Perhaps this estimate is rather below than above the real number. At New York, consumption seems to engross one-sixth, and sometimes a fifth, of all the deaths.

The annual mortality in France is about 1 in 40, and the relative proportion of deaths by consumption to the general mortality is 23 per cent., or nearly one-fourth. Pleurisies destroy one-fourth of the whole population of Petersburg, fevers one-third, and consumptions one-sixth. Within the tropics, Europeans suffer much less by consumptions than in temperate latitudes. On the continent of Africa consumption is a rare complaint. In the West Indies, Africans are very liable to diseases of the chest, but chiefly to tubercular consumption.

Hydrophobia has been chiefly observed in Europe. It has, however, never been described as occurring beyond the Arctic Circle; and, indeed, according to some authors, it is seldom if ever heard of at Archangel, Tobolsk, or in the country north of St Petersburg. It has never been observed at Constantinople [which swarms with dogs], Syria, or Egypt. Hillary states that he saw some cases of the disease at Barbadoes. It is, however, a disease which is extremely rare in the West Indies; I believe that, in many of the islands, it has never been noticed. Valentin asserts that it is extremely rare in the warm regions of America, but common in the northern part of that continent. Rabies occurs in India, but not often. According to Barrow, the dogs in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope very rarely go mad.

#### EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY OF WILLIAM FRASER.

SOME remarks on the Admirable Crichton, penned in a spirit of incredulity, lately appeared in the Journal, and were followed up by a translation of one of his poems, which certainly showed little of the feelings and ideas which are now deemed requisite for that branch of composition. Since the publication of that paper, we have been made acquainted with some particulars respecting William Fraser, a youth born in Edinburgh, near the close of the last century, which, taken in connection with what we know of similar persons, such as Zara Colburn, the American boy, and the boy Bidder of England, would seem to prove that nature does occasionally send forth prodigies of genius, such as Crichton is reputed to have been. We shall proceed to lay before the reader such particulars as we have been furnished with respecting Fraser:—

He was the son of an engraver in Edinburgh, and had the misfortune to lose both his father and mother at a very early age. Circumstances then threw him under the protection of an eminent teacher of writing and accounts in his native city, who treated him as one of his own family, and gave him the advantage of instruction in an *intellectual* system of arithmetic, which he had invented for the use of his own scholars, and practised with great success. Not only did Fraser make great progress in this branch of knowledge, but in languages, in music, and many other accomplishments, he displayed an aptitude that astonished all who had occasion to observe him. What rendered this the more surprising, was, that he never appeared to study. His disposition was playful to an extreme bordering on folly, and he indulged to the fullest extent in all the sports of his companions. He seemed to acquire all his knowledge and proficiency by intuition; for it is the distinct recollection of his patron, that he was hardly ever seen *seated at a book*. Yet, in this way, without the least observable exertion, he speedily mastered the Latin, Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, and (what is perhaps most surprising) German languages, so as to be able, at an almost childhood, to teach them to others. He could also play beautifully on the violin, flute, and piano-forte, and sing in a masterly and graceful manner, without ever having received instruction from a teacher.

At a very early age he was adopted as a sort of assistant by his kind patron, and took his share in all the laborious duties of the academy. His extraordinary genius had now attracted considerable attention, and, being very good natured, he made no scruple to gratify visitors with an exhibition of his arithmetical powers. He would allow a person to cover an entire slate with figures, and hold the wrong end towards him from the other side of an ordinary dining-table. He would then, in a playful manner, look at it with one eye, and sum up the columns, though twelve or fifteen figures deep, at the rate of a second for each column. Being asked, on a certain occasion, how he could know the amount of a column by a single glance of his eye, he answered by another question, "How do you know a friend when you meet him, without distinctly and sensibly marking every part of his per-

son from top to toe?" "But how is it," said the inquirer, "that you know the columns equally well when the figures are all upside down?" "Why," said Fraser, "if your friends were all to change their mode of walking, and meet you every day with their heels uppermost, would you not soon come to recognise them as readily in that way as in any other?" It afterwards turned out that he had got into a habit of reckoning accounts in this inverted manner, in order to save time in his teaching operations. The pupils being arranged along two sides of a broad desk, he found it convenient sometimes to examine the proceedings of a scholar on the off side, without going round by the end of the table, at the same time that he was keeping his eye upon those who were nearer to him; and thus he gradually became able to read figures as well the one way as the other. It was at length found necessary to invent a short-hand set of figures for his use in arithmetical calculations.

Many anecdotes are preserved of the frolicsome disposition which Fraser manifested throughout all these triumphs of his genius. When about eight years old, he was mentioned to Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster as an extraordinary genius, and that gentleman, with his usual benevolent interest in such subjects, expressed a desire to see him. He accordingly called at Sir John's residence, but the servants refused him admittance. He then obtained the loan of a trifle from a companion, with which he hired a pony, and, mounted on this animal, he called again at Sir John's house, with the same companion equipped as his servant. Being then readily admitted, he showed his expertness in calculation, and came off with great eclat.

An unhappy accident, which happened when he was a very young man, and some time after he had left the house of his first patron, produced a considerable derangement in the nervous system of Fraser. While fencing with a companion, he had the misfortune to wound a boy who ran in between them, in a mortal part. Some of the other boys having raised a cry of murder, the city-officers rushed in, and, apprehending Fraser, dragged him like a common felon to jail. The horror of his mind at the unforseen act, joined to his mortification at thus enduring the gaze of the multitude, gave such a shock to his nerves as affected him seriously through life.

In early life, Fraser left the Scottish metropolis, and sought his fortune in London. He soon obtained employment as usher in one of the principal boarding-schools in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, but was speedily dismissed, on account, it was understood, of the jealousy of the master, who could not bear to see himself outshone before the boys. Previous to this time, Fraser's Edinburgh patron had removed to London, and it was in his friendly home that the unfortunate youth now sought a refuge, which, it is needless to say, was readily and cordially granted. Soon after this, a gentleman, in conversing with his patron, mentioned that he had in view to propose to government the establishment of a public office in the Admiralty, which would be of great service in that department; and that the preparatory calculations were so extensive as to require an unusually expert arithmetician for that part of the undertaking. Mr Paton—for it was he who acted in so kind a manner to this extraordinary youth\*—at once recommended Mr Fraser; but it was thought necessary to consult certain eminent calculators concerning the preparatory business—namely, the formation of a complete set of annuity tables for three lives. The answer was, that it would require ten accountants for ten years, or one person for one hundred years, were it possible that he could live so long; and that Price and other great calculators had contented themselves with making approximations, instead of forming a complete set of tables. In short, it was reckoned that the figuring requisite for the above purpose, by ordinary modes of calculation, would cover wagon-loads of paper. Fraser, however, undertook to finish the whole in one year, and actually produced a proportionate quantity in a month, so that the office was immediately established.

Soon after this, the gentleman formerly mentioned proposed the formation of another government office, and Mr Fraser was employed as before, and with equal success. While thus occupied, his apartment presented the idea of a magician's cave, being filled with graduated scales, yards in length, corresponding to magic wands, with other ingenious apparatus, contrived by himself, and inexplicable by others. Like many ingenious individuals, who have benefited others without improving their own condition, he failed in obtaining the advantages which were to have been expected from these singular efforts, and again was obliged to take a situation as usher of a provincial academy. Soon after, Mr Paton received a letter from him, mentioning that he was now very happily situated, having the honour of frequent invitations to the houses of the neighbouring gentry, among whom he figured to great advantage. Within a month, all

\* Mr GEORGE PATON, himself the father of a family of genius, and who, after having for some years been unknown in Edinburgh, his native city, has again been mentioned amongst us the business of instructing youth in accountancy, geography, &c. using, in the first of these branches, the excellent system which may be said to have produced the extraordinary specimen of scholarship we have been employed in commemorating.

† This circumstance has a kind of resemblance to an anecdote in the life of the Admirable Crichton. When that personage challenged the Professors of the University of Paris, and came off triumphantly, they are said to have declared that it would require in ordinary person a hundred years of constant study to acquire the knowledge which he had displayed on the occasion.

this happiness was reversed. Having caught a severe cold, by exposure on the top of a public coach during a rainy night, he found it necessary once more to return to the house of his early friend and protector—thus resembling the hare, which, when closely pursued by the hounds, and unable any longer to extend her course over the country, reverts at length to her own form. Though medical advice was procured, and every comfort administered, poor Fraser died in a fortnight—a mere youth, but not before he had given token of such mental powers, as, in their maturity, must have been a wonder and a blessing to his kind.

Alas! while we thus endeavour to rescue from oblivion the story of one of the most extraordinary geniuses that ever lived, and which, but for a mere accident having brought it under our notice, might have remained in obscurity for ever, how forcibly occurs the melancholy thought—that many persons of singular genius are *never heard of by the world at large*, but live and die as notelessly as those to whom no such gifts have been vouchsafed!

#### THE TRAVELLER AND THE POLE-CAT.

ON a journey from Louisville to Henderson in Kentucky, performed during very severe winter weather, in company with a foreigner, the initials of whose name are D. T., my companion, spying a beautiful animal, marked with black and pale yellow, and having a long and bushy tail, exclaimed, "Mr Audubon, is not that a beautiful squirrel?" "Yes," I answered, "and of a kind that will suffer you to approach it, and lay hold of it, if you are well gloved." Mr D. T. dismounting, took up a dry stick, and advanced toward the pretty animal, with his large cloak floating in the breeze. I think I see him approach, and laying the stick gently across the body of the animal, try to secure it; and I can yet laugh almost as heartily as I then did, when I plainly saw the discomfiture of the traveler. The pole-cat (for a true pole-cat it was, the *Mephitis Americana* of zoologists) raised its fine bushy tail, and showered such a discharge of the fluid given him by nature as a defence, that my friend, dismayed and infuriated, began to belabour the poor animal. The swiftness and good management of the pole-cat, however, saved its bones; and as it made its retreat towards its hole, it kept up at every step a continued ejection, which fully convinced the gentleman that the pursuit of such squirrels as these was at the best an unprofitable employment.

This was not all, however. I could not suffer his approach, nor could my horse; it was with difficulty he mounted his own; and we were forced to continue our journey far asunder, and he much to leeward. Nor did the matter end here. We could not proceed much farther that night; as, in the first place, it was nearly dark when we saw the pole-cat, and as, in the second place, a heavy snow-storm began, and almost impeded our progress. We were forced to make for the first cabin we saw. Having asked and obtained permission to rest for the night, we dismounted, and found ourselves amongst a crowd of men and women who had met for the purpose of *corn-shucking*.

To a European who has not visited the western parts of the United States, an explanation of this corn-shucking may not be unacceptable. Corn (or you may prefer calling it maize) is gathered in the husk, that is, by breaking each large ear from the stem. These ears are first thrown into heaps in the field, and afterwards carried in carts to the barn, or, as in this instance, and in such portions of Kentucky, to a shed made of the blades or long leaves that hang in graceful curves from the stalk, and which, when plucked and dried, are used instead of hay as food for horses and cattle. The husk consists of several thick leaves rather longer than the corn-ear itself, and which secure it from the weather. It is quite a labour to detach these leaves from the ear, when thousands of bushels of the corn are gathered and heaped together. For this purpose, however, and in the western country more especially, several neighbouring families join alternately at each other's plantations, and assist in clearing away the husks, thus preparing the maize for the market or for domestic use.

The good people whom we met with at this hospitable house were on the point of going to the barn (the farmer here being in rather good condition) to work until towards the middle of the night. When we had stood the few staves to which strangers must accustom themselves, no matter where, even in a drawing-room, we approached the fire. What a shock for the whole party! The scent of the pole-cat, that had been almost stifled on my companion's vestments by the cold of the evening air, now recovered its primitive strength. The cloak was put out of the house but its owner could not be well used in the same way. The company, however, took to their heels, and there only remained a single black servant, who waited on us until supper was served.

I felt vexed at myself, as I saw the good traveller disengaged. But he had so much good breeding as to treat this important affair with great forbearance, and merely said he was sorry for his want of knowledge in zoology. The good gentleman, however, was not only deficient in zoological lore, but, fresh as he was from Europe, felt more than uneasy in this out-of-the-way house, and would have proceeded towards my own house that night, had I not at length succeeded in persuading him that he was in perfect security.

We were shewn to bed. As I was almost a stranger to him, and he to me, he thought it a very awkward thing to be obliged to lie in the same bed with me, but afterwards spoke of it as a happy circumstance, and requested that I should suffer him to be placed next the logs, thinking, no doubt, that there he should run no risk.

We started by break of day, taking with us the frozen cloak, and after passing a pleasant night in my own house, we parted. Some years after, I met my Kentucky companion in a far distant land, when he assured me, that whenever the sun shone on his cloak, or it was brought near a fire, the scent of the pole-cat became so perceptible, that he at last gave it to a poor monk in Italy.

The animal commonly known in America by the name of pole-cat is about a foot and a half in length, with a large bushy tail, nearly as long as the body. The colour is generally brownish-black, with a large white patch on the back of the head; but there are many varieties of colouring, in some of which the broad white bands of the back are very conspicuous. The pole-cat burrows, or forms a subterranean habitation among the roots of trees, or in rocky places. It feeds on birds, young hares, rats, mice, and other animals, and commits great depredations on poultry. The most remarkable peculiarity of this animal is the power, alluded to above, of squirting for its defence a most nauseous scented fluid contained in a receptacle situated under the tail, which it can do to the distance of several yards. It does not, however, for this purpose, sprinkle its tail with the fluid, as some allege, unless when extremely harassed by its enemies. The pole-cat is frequently domesticated. The removal of the glands prevents the secretion of the nauseous fluid, and when thus improved, the animal becomes a great favourite, and performs the offices of the common cat with great dexterity.—*Audubon's American Ornithology.*

#### BRITISH SILK MANUFACTURE.

It is learned, from the accounts of different authors, that the Chinese were the first people who cultivated the production of silk by the means of silk-worms, and that a knowledge of the art was made known in Europe as early as the sixth century, and that by an accidental circumstance. Two Christian missionaries having travelled into China, there viewed with a curious eye the common dress of the people, and the myriads of insects employed in furnishing the material for the manufacturer. On returning to Europe, they mentioned these circumstances; and, stimulated by the offer of a large reward, they retraced their steps to China, where they contrived to possess themselves of a quantity of the eggs of the silk-worm moth, which they concealed in a hollow cane, and brought safely to Constantinople, in the year 552. From this caneful of eggs, which were hatched in due season, have sprung all the silk-worms now found in almost every country of Western Asia and the south of Europe. These are daily multiplying, and, up to the present time, an immensely increased demand for silk has been felt all over the civilized globe.

Silk came into use in England in the fifteenth century, but its manufacture was long in arriving at maturity. It was for more than two hundred years used almost exclusively by the upper ranks, and it is only in recent times that it has formed a part in the garments of the middle and lower classes. The first manufacture of the article on regular principles was at Spitalfields, where a large body of French refugees settled, in consequence of the revocation of the edict of Nantes, in 1685; it was, however, upwards of a century later, when the raw silk of India could be imported with facility, before it became a great object of national concern. The imports of raw and thrown silk into Great Britain in 1824 amounted to 3,382,357 lbs., of which 1,716,734 were furnished by Italy, and 1,307,300 by the East Indies and China; in 1829, they amounted to 2,892,201 lbs. It is difficult to form any precise estimate of the present value of the British silk manufacture. Mr Wilson, a well-informed and extensive manufacturer, in his evidence before the House of Lords' Committee, stated that he calculated that 40,000 hands, whose wages would amount to £350,000, were employed in throwing silk for the weaver; that £300,000 were consumed in soap and dye-stuffs used in the manufacture; and £255,000 were paid to 16,500 winders. The number of looms he estimated at 40,000, affording employment to 80,000 persons, whose wages would amount to £3,000,000. If we include infants and dependants, about 400,000 mouths will be fed by the silk-manufacture, the value of which Mr Wilson estimated at £10,000,000. British silk goods are, in general, higher priced than those of France; but the prejudice in favour of the latter is wearing out, and, in fact, the greater proportion of silks professing to be brought from Lyons and Marseilles, are direct from Spitalfields or Manchester.

It appears, from a statement now before us, that it requires thirty thousand worms to produce five pounds of silk. If we reckon that at the present time a million and a half pounds are imported annually, it therefore seems that nine thousand millions of insects are kept constantly working in order to furnish the British with the raw silk from which we make such a beautiful article of manufacture.

#### HISTORY OF THE VIOLIN.

The violin holds in the orchestra the highest rank: it always, and of right, is in the hands of the leader; for the grand point of instrumental imitation is the human voice, and no instrument approaches, by its tones, its delicacy of execution, and its brilliancy, so close to the human voice as the violin. Its origin is in the remotest antiquity. Bernardino Maffei, the cardinal, born in 1514, in his treatise on inscriptions and medals, gives an antique of Orpheus playing with a bow on an instrument resembling the violin, but which was called the lyre. The Nubium and the Psaltery of the ancient Jews are said to have strongly resembled the violin, as the Psalterium of the present day obviously does. Euphorion, in his book *de Isthmisi*, describes an ancient instrument called Magadis, which was surrounded by strings, and which, placed on a pivot, turned round, while the performer drew his bow across it. This machine was also called the Sambuce. The hieroglyphics of Peter Valerian, p. 628, c. 4, have a figure of a man holding a bass viol in his hand. Philostratus, who taught at Athens in the time of Nero, thus describes the lyre:—"Orpheus supported the lyre against his left leg, while he beat time by striking his foot on the ground; in his right hand he held the bow, which he drew across the strings, turning his wrist slightly inwards; he touched the strings with his left hand, keeping the knuckles perfectly straight." This was of the nature of the modern viol-di-gamba. The word *plectrum* should be generally translated by bow, though it is uncertain whether the bow was not sometimes used merely to strike the strings. In the middle ages, the violin family were numerous, though the instrument had not attained its present exactness of shape. The troubadours were often called violiers, or violin players. It was in high estimation in the monasteries; and among their treasures are still preserved cases of violins, violas, and similar instruments tending to the lute, beautifully wrought with ivory and the precious metals. The modern violin has been brought into celebrity by a long succession of fine performers. Arcangelo Corelli, a Bolognese, was the first great violinist. He died January 1713, aged 60 years. He was the founder of the Roman school. Tartini was of a noble Venetian family. He died in 1770, first violin master of the church of St Anthony, in Padua. In Germany, the violin received great cultivation during the last two centuries. In France, the violin was brought into favour by Baltazarini, an Italian, sent from Piedmont by Marshal Brissac to Catherine de Medicis. Lully flourished in the time of Louis XIV., 1652. The conservatoire has in the present age furnished France with a multitude of fine violin performers. In England, the violin became popular at the Restoration. Charles II. established a band of violin tenors and basses, and placed at their head Thomas Baltzar, a Swede, the first violinist of his time. Banister, an Englishman, succeeded Baltzar. At the latter end of Charles II.'s reign, Nicolas Matteis, an Italian, arrived, and astonished every one by his mastery of the instrument; his style of bowing and his shakes were peculiarly fine. Francesco Geminiani, born at Lucca about 1666, a disciple of Corelli, was leader of the orchestra at Naples. He died in Ireland in 1762, aged 96. He was a great improver of the general taste on the violin by his publications. Veracini, the first violinist of his time, and a man of great power of composition, arrived in London in 1715. Felici Giardini, a Piedmontese, and pupil of Somis, arrived in England in 1750. His first performance was for the benefit of Cuzzoni, at the little theatre in the Haymarket, when he played a solo and a concerto. The applause rivalled the loudest ever given to Garrick. In 1755 he led at the opera. His elegance of bowing, his facility in embellishing passages, and his taste in varying common airs extempore, were surprising. After a long residence he retired to Italy. William Cramer was born in Mainz in 1744; about 1773 he came to London, and succeeded Giardini as leader of the opera band for nearly twenty years. He led at the commemoration of Handel in 1784. His execution was remarkable for neatness, and fullness of tone; his facility of playing at sight was extraordinary; as a leader he had no equal; he died in 1799. The principal native violinists were, Corbett, leader of the opera in 1710; he died in 1748; Dubourg, leader of the King's band in Ireland; he died in London in 1767; Clegg, his pupil, leader of the opera band; Pinto, born of Italian parents, leader at the opera, and afterwards at Drury Lane; he died in Ireland a few years since; his grandson, G. F. Pinto, also dead, was a great performer and musical genius.

The finer order of violins are expensive instruments; a brilliant toned violin can seldom be had in England or France for less than fifty guineas. Violins have been raised even so high as £250. The general price for a Stradivarius is a hundred guineas. The choice of violins cannot be made but by a master's experience. But new instruments are always to be avoided: if they have a good tone, it is almost sure to grow worse. The best violins are generally repulsive in their early tone, and few of them are good for any thing under fifty years. The violin makers most memorable are, Amati, of Cremona—(there were several of the name, Andreas, Jerome, and Anthony, his sons, and Nicolas, the son of Anthony); he flourished about 1600. Their violins are distinguished by beauty of shape and sweetness of

tone. Stradivarius; there were two of the name, both of Cremona; the latter was living in 1700. His signature was *Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis faciebat anno A. S.* Andreas Guarnerius, also of Cremona. His signature was *Andreas Guarnerius, fecit Cremona, subtilo, Sancta Teresa, 1680.* Stainer, a German, a native of Tyrol; his violins are distinguished by their piercing and full tone. His signature is *Jacobus Stainer, in Absom prope Enipontum, 1647.* Mathias Alabani, a Tyrolese; his signature was *Mathias Alabani, fecit in Tyrol, Balsani, 1654.* It is remarkable that almost the entire of the fine violins now to be found are the work of those Cremonese makers. Time may have done something for them, for the violin certainly improves by age, if it be originally a good one. But there is still something more difficult to be ascertained in their workmanship. Their violins have often been taken to pieces by the most expert artists, for the purpose of constructing others on their exact model, and yet the experiment has utterly failed. New constructions have been tried, and scientific models on the principles of sound have been invented, but without shaking the superiority of the Cremonese. But the most studied and dexterous experiments were made about ten years ago in Paris, by a M. Chanot. This intelligent artist presented one of his instruments to the French Royal Academy of the Fine Arts, with a curious memoir, in which he explained his proceeding. His principle was the acknowledged one, that the long fibres of the wood are fitter for the production of the low tones, and the shorter fibres, or arches, for the high tones. By fixing the sounding post at the back of the bridge, the fibres of the sounding board are divided into two arches, instead of being cut in two on the side of the E string. And this division is necessary, because the high tones being produced on that side, the bridge acts on the shorter arches like a small lever, while on the side of the bass string the fibres are enabled to vibrate in the long arches necessary to produce the low tones. But the more remarkable change was in the cutting of the sounding board. Among other points here, M. Chanot disapproves of the shape of the letter f for the sound holes of the violin, as cutting too many fibres. In his invention those holes are parallel and straight. A committee, on which were Cherubini the composer, and Prony the engineer, gave in a favourable report on this violin, which they had heard played on by Boucher, the famous violinist, in an adjoining room, alternately with a Stradivarius, without being able to discover which was which, excepting that they mistook the old violin for the new, which, as being the presumed superior, was a triumph for M. Chanot. But from all this we have not heard of any further results. The violin of Cremona still holds its ancient supremacy, and deserves it, at least in point of figure, for the new violins are angular and unpleasing to the eye. We have heard no more of M. Chanot, and are inclined to conclude that his invention was finally found inapplicable. This, however, should not deter our English artists from the experiment. They make the best harps and pianos in the world, and why should they not make every other instrument equally well, is beyond our conjecture.—*From an Album.*

#### THE NE'ERDOOWEE.

To continue the relation of my uncle:—Mr Badenoch was now on his way to a foreign strand. It is unnecessary to trace the progress of a man so hopeless, as if he were a hero. He was landed at Demerara, that land where health is staked by the desperate for a chance of wealth, and where, with care and assiduity, wealth may be attained, and some measure of health preserved. The little island of Wakenham, at the mouth of the river, was the scene of our hero's destination. As he arrived at the finest part of the season, the country seemed delightful; and as he had formed the most anxious determination to repair the past, and as, moreover, his recommendations were strong, he soon found employment. He became a book-keeper under the attorney on a considerable estate.

For a time he exerted himself to acquire a knowledge of the duties of his new profession; and though he felt humbled from many circumstances, and, consequently, unhappy, yet, as he was inoffensive in his nature, and his employer proved one of those who can maintain their dignity without harshness, he was becoming a very faithful and useful servant of the estate. He had ever a pride in keeping his provision-grounds neat, and the fences of his coffee-land in the very best order, and yet working his people with the greatest gentleness, and expending his stores at once with fairness and economy. A feeling for the poor blacks, compelled, like himself, to a situation that was unpleasant to them, was the cause of much of this, combined, perhaps, with a melancholy wish to disappoint the auguries of his enemies, and to return at no distant day to his native country, with at least some share of wealth. Be this as it may, he became a favourite with the slaves, and so far respected by his master; and being now, in some measure, seasoned to the climate, he considered himself at last in the way to do well. Must it be told?—this was the dream of a moment. The good feelings of those to whom discretion has been denied, are equally capable of injuring themselves as the bad. He could not be kind to the poor slaves without forgetting that they were uninformed. From wishing to show kindness, perhaps a foolish and pa-

tronising kindness, he became familiar; from familiarity, they became presuming and negligent. Seeing his kindness, as he conceived, abused, he became resentful. The slaves could not bear ordinary severity where they had been treated with indulgence. From mutual sullenness, they proceeded to hatred; severity on his part, and rebellion on theirs. The gang was declared disorganized, and the manager was compelled to intimate his wish to the proprietors that they should part. Once more, therefore, our hero was at large upon the world, and had he been near those who formerly knew him, once more he would have been pronounced bewitched.

He soon found another appointment; but his character for discretion was lost. He could never hope to rise beyond the situation of a mere overseer, unless after proof of a steadiness of which he was little capable. He soon put an end to his probation. Some of the slaves whom he had helped to spoil, now regretting him as much as they had hated him, and resenting the just distance observed by his successor as much as they had abused the undue lenity shown by himself, escaped from their plantation, and ran to him for protection. Had he known any thing, he would have known that the concealment of a runaway slave is never forgiven by the colonists. He should instantly have given information, endeavouring only to mitigate the punishment. He intended this, but from time to time deferred it, till the retreat of the negroes was discovered. It was then too late for both parties. The act was plain; his intentions could not be known; and it was speedily evident that he must leave the colony, or starve. He went to Jamaica; but he took no character with him—or rather his character followed him—he was a marked man. He wandered about from estate to estate—hospitably enough received, as far as a meal would go, but employment was out of the question. He was declared unfit for, and even dangerous in, the West Indies, at least in any situation connected with the negroes, though it seemed extremely probable he might in time find something to do in a store.

As he wandered about from estate to estate, he envied even the slaves, as, contented and free of care, they trudged along under branches of rich plantains, or, in merry bands, carried the richer cane to its final destination in the mill. Often, if shame would have allowed him, he would have begged to take the place of the well-fed and cheerful black, that acted as "boy" in the families that, from time to time, received him as he trudged his weary round, sooner than submit to returning home poorer than he left it, and with the reputation of being fit for neither the old world nor the new.

A very unexpected incident soon decided him. A vessel from Scotland arrived in Kingston Roads; and having nothing to do, and the thoughts of home again coming strong upon him, he went on board. As he was ashamed to declare himself, farther than as a native of Scotland, little passed beyond the usual and natural inquiries; but being accustomed in his young days to climb about his father's vessels, he must needs shew the seamen of the vessel in question his dexterity. She was of considerable tonnage, so that in ascending the masts he had to come out a considerable distance in the pullock shrouds, his back downwards, and hanging by the feet and arms. Either from being long unused to such exercise, or from being desirous to shew off a little too much, he lost hold with his feet and one hand; and after hanging by the other for some time, to the amusement, doubtless, of the seamen, who were occasionally looking at him, as, with folded arms, they leaned on the gunwales, or loitered about the deck, he dropped with a scream into the water; and a shark having been for some time in waiting, right under him, he came up in a very few moments with a loss of a very serviceable leg! Here was a consummation! Was it possible to account for such misfortune on ordinary principles? Even the people of Kingston, who had never heard the opinion of those of the place of his nativity, could not help looking and laughing even while they pitied him, and exclaiming that the fellow was certainly bewitched!

This was too much. Unable to live on land, and bit by snakes as the moment he, but by accident, dropped into the water, he now felt that there was only one refuge left, and that the sooner he was with his mother the better. But how to return? He had no money. He could not now work, even as a common seaman. A merchant who heard his history told him to make himself easy, and, as soon as he had recovered, gave him a passage to London. In the interval he had given him some employment about his stores—and had he been of ordinary prudence, an opening might thus again have been found for him; but lame and penniless as he was, and a married man as he had confessed himself, he had taken some opportunities afforded by the civility of the merchant, to make advances to his only daughter! and the old man, in turning him with contempt from his premises, could not help joining in the universal exclamation, that the fellow was certainly bewitched!

After any misfortune, our friend generally became prudent—it might be said religious—for a period proportioned to the severity of the evil. Upon this occasion his good resolutions lasted him till he was several days at sea. His fellow passengers were highly respectable. Our hero attached himself particularly to an elderly gentleman who had made his fortune, and was returning home, accompanied by a lady, the sister of a friend, and who was coming to join some relations

in this country. According to his general custom, Mr Badenoch boasted of the wealth of "the Old Boy," as he termed his father, and of his own absurdity; and the last being very obvious, connected with other circumstances, generally gained credence for the first. The young lady proved nearly as absurd as himself; at least they had not been many days in company till they began to be very constantly together; to consider in secret every body fools but themselves, and quiz them accordingly; and at last to join in evading the old gentleman, who, doubtless for very good reasons, saw it necessary to discourage rather than encourage their intimacy.

It was too late! The lady was stout and handsome, sung delightfully, and conversed well—at least our friend thought so; for by silly people mere talk is considered conversation. As she had been genteelly educated, however, had much softness of person, and grace and even dignity of manners, it is very possible the man was attached, and that, had there been no obstacle in the way, and either possessed of fortune, their connection might have appeared sufficiently suitable, and, as Squire Richard says, "done no harm to nobody." But there was not a shilling of fortune upon either side, the gentleman, as we have seen, being worse than nothing, and the lady depending on the good opinion of her friends; and to crown all, the man was already married! All these things, however, went for nothing. They were intoxicated with one another: they rose up but to flirt and wander together, and lay down only to dream of one another. The elderly gentleman found his authority set at nought—the captain and other persons in authority were bribed—a marriage ceremony even was gone through in the Scottish form, which, being accompanied by written engagements, satisfied both parties, and the moment they could confirm it in England, it was confirmed. Being firmly married, they began to think at last of what they should have thought of first, namely, how they should maintain themselves; and upon this point their speculations were very black.

The gentleman knew he had nothing to look to, so upon that point there was no difficulty; and the temporary guardian of the lady, as well as her friends in the country, being either really enraged, or finding it for their interest to appear so, they were at once left to themselves, with the old declaration that they were certainly bewitched.

At last it occurred to our friend that he had written to his family of his misfortunes, and his intention to return home, and desiring to hear from them in London, at the house of an old correspondent of his father. As he had given the name of the vessel in which he sailed, and her arrival had been announced for some time, he found a letter for him, but it was neither from his mother nor his father, the last being still too angry to write to his son, and the first incapable of permitting herself to write, in the terms that were necessary. Since his leaving the country, short as that period had been, strange things had happened. First, a young gentleman had come into the world, who claimed to be the inheritor of his name, and, what proved of rather more consequence, his estates. These, it is true, were at one time considered little more than his share of the General Entail, that is to say, of the states of sin and misery bequeathed by Adam; but the father of the lady who had the honour of producing him, being one of those pragmatical fellows, who, though they expect to see nothing in a well, will yet look into it, and talk about a property that *has been*, for three or four generations after it has left them, so now, finding his daughter not only within a hair's breadth of having been a woman of property, but absolutely not exactly divorced from it, nothing would hinder him from stepping forward to see whether he had not at least a right to talk about the matter.

He decided very properly, that, of lawyers, the best for a doubtful case is one whom all his brethren have conspired to call the most troublesome fellow on earth; one whose very name strikes terror; who knows it, and acts up to it, in order to secure the reputation of his *prestige*, that being his talisman for opening the purses of his employers. It is impossible to step aside to describe the person and character of a Scotch country writer particularly, but we shall do what we can. Mr Thomas M'Quirk was a middle-sized, dark, pock-pitted man, with bushy hair; very tolerably made, but with a most forbidding look; at least all who disliked him said so, and they were pretty numerous. Your dandy man of business, who has only one journey to go in a year, not only torments his maid servant in preparations for a whole morning, after having tormented the neighbourhood about it for a week, but has as many knick-knacks proper for riding to put on, as a tailor preparing for a race-course. Our friend Tom had not time for ceremonies. After taking a *proof* ten or fifteen miles from home in one direction, and astonishing all the old women of the place with the fact of his keeping all law and lawyers at defiance by his single strength, he often found letters lying for him, or messengers waiting with directions not to go without him, that whistled him perhaps twice as far on the other side of his residence; for a famous writer, like a famous doctor, is sent for, as the saying is, from far and near; and no one that can get hold of either can die or be hanged comfortably without having him. Our friend Tom, in consequence, required often to start on a new journey without shaving, after feeling at the fag-end of the old one as if his bones were shaking loose in his clothes. His riding appointments, there-

fore, were very simple. He wore leather breeches, because they served for dress or riding clothes indifferently; shoes and stockings for the same reason; and a single spur; because, like Hudibras, he knew that, when one side of his horse could be stirred to a trot, the other was not likely to lag behind. A spur, therefore, might be said to constitute his whole riding-dress—switch he had none. He always supplied himself from the hedges, any thing else being expensive, and apt to be lost. He carried a pen in his waistcoat pocket, with a nose that defied injury, and abundance of paper in his coat. Such were the person and appointments of Mr M'Quirk—and Mr M'Quirk was the lawyer selected upon this occasion.

As lawyers know, as well as vultures, when a carcass is in the wind, and Mr M'Quirk knew upon this occasion that the windfall was considerable, the very idea of having a finger in it was sufficient. He already looked upon the greater part of the property as his own. When he entered the room, all was going on smoothly. The creditors of Nicholas Badenoch had lodged claims sufficient to have swallowed up fifty such subjects as remained to pay them; many groaning over the loss of hundreds, that were never supposed to have had twenties to lose; others pretending claims whom every body else supposed to be debtors; but Mr Fiddledeedee, the agent in the sequestration, was what the world calls a very decent man—that is, nine times in ten a very great blockhead. He received and entered all claims with suitable gravity, regretting only that there would be so many honest men losers. He very prudently said little about his own loss on the occasion, because it is no credit for a man of business to lose upon any occasion; moreover, perhaps, because upon this occasion he had not lost at all. He had taken all suitable instructions for disposing of the property, and the meeting was about to have closed with the utmost harmony, when, to their horror, they saw approaching the figure of Tom M'Quirk!

When Tom entered, and saw so many there whom he did not expect to see, he gave a loud *hew!* which did not diminish their uneasiness. They instantly saw for whom he appeared—for a country client knows too well to trust even his own writer out of his sight; so the grey hair and sun-burnt brow of old Dockenroot were seen behind Tom, like a victim behind the swarthy figure of a demon. At first there was an impression that his appearance there was ridiculous, as he had advanced no money, and there could be no reversion; and it seemed to give great satisfaction that they might oust him summarily. But Tom took his seat. He stated himself to appear *inter alios* for the *heir of the bankrupt*, and as *curator ad item*!—which means, to manage his law-pleas; desirous that the minutes of the meeting might be read; and heard all with such an imperturbable stare as made all alike afraid. "Have you the titles to the property?" said he, for that was their principal hope. "No; but there could be no doubt it fell under the sequestration." "The minute's no worth a damn!" said Tom; and immediately every one believed it. He said the first thing was to apply to the Court for authority to recover their titles; after that, he believed his client would be found exclusively entitled. He also knew that many of the claims would be found bad, at all events; but he did not desire them to be withdrawn, as an agent could never have too much security for his account; but, in the meantime, he declined to rank his own client, or to go farther than record his demand of the titles, as he might be compelled to take entirely separate measures. Several who had at the outset been freely and even ostentatiously showing their grounds of claim, had long since removed them out of sight with great quietness; and others, as they put their hats on their heads with both hands, and took a farewell look of the meeting, took also farewell of the business; for they saw it would now end in no good. In this way our friend was left to dictate his minute to rather a thin meeting; and to them he did not hesitate to let it be known that he meant to contend every inch of ground for the benefit of his infant client, who, he thought, in his long minority, would again bring matters round.

All this was mere bravado at the time, but it proved to be nearly correct; for upon looking into the titles of the property, it was found that it was so devised to a series of heirs, by the contract that had been entered into by Nic's father and mother, as to be incapable of being burdened by him, or evicted for his debts. This had been done by the old grandfather, to guard against the vicissitudes of trade, which he hated, being himself unfit for it—but kept a secret, almost from the parties themselves, certainly from the mother, that the credit of the father might be increased by the supposed unfettered property of the estate, rather than diminished by a recorded restriction. The debts, therefore, incurred in Nic's minority, and which had been subsequently confirmed by him, and made good, as it was supposed, against the estate by adjudication, now became merely personal; the young heir and his mother remained unencumbered possessors in expectancy, and with such advice as they had, were not likely to be smuggled out of it. In addition to this, it was discovered that sundry superiorities, or rights to vote for a member in Parliament, belonged to the property; and titles to these, even for the life of the incumbent, were then of great value. Upon proper inquiry, also, it was ascertained that many of the bills of poor Nic had been granted, for accommodation of

the parties who held them, and yet had not scrupled to propose ranking for them, as they afterwards said, that the dividends might cover other and unknown claims; and, lastly, many debts obviously due to him, but which had been ranked against him, as the parties said, for greater security, were in due time recovered from the real debtors. The father, therefore, soon saw it expedient to step forward, and, upon a principle at once proper and honourable, made offer of a composition generally, that he might get quit as easily as possible of debts that were unreal, or had been improperly contracted, but paid all such debts as were just, without any deduction. In short, it was soon seen that Nic might have remained at home, and almost in independent circumstances; and when this was heard, it only confirmed people in saying, what they had long said before, that he was certainly bewitched.

The letter which he now received in London briefly announced these circumstances, so far as necessary, and informed him that his wife and child were well, and living creditably on an allowance made by his father, from the proceeds of the estate. It farther enclosed him a sum for his immediate expenses, and to bring him home; and concluded by cautioning him against all farther nonsense, as though he fortunately could not do all the mischief which it had been supposed he could, he would at least make himself miserable for life, and that was pretty well.

When our friend had read this letter, he was so over-powered as to let it fall from his hands; and the old merchant who delivered it, having nearly about the same time received one from the father, that put him nearly in possession of the facts of the case, could not help being astonished. He therefore asked with some impatience what was the matter; and very soon ascertained that our friend had once more arrived at what might be termed prosperity—with the trifling drawback of being liable to be transported for bigamy! He immediately inquired into the circumstances; and finding that the lady was not only respectable, but had a guardian of very strong notions of property, and, therefore, likely to do the worst, he could not help exclaiming with the rest of the world, as he turned from him, "The fellow is certainly bewitched!"

The advice of the old merchant was very distinct. It was immediately to make himself scarce in England, and not even to sound a trumpet before him in Scotland; and Badenoch took leave with the intention of implicitly obeying him. But good advice is wasted on fools: it is, as Solomon has said long ago, casting pearls to pigs. Our friend had not passed a thousand yards in the right direction, when he thought it would be in the last degree cruel to part without seeing his *Maria*, as he called her, and even sharing what he had with her; forgetting that the old merchant was, as soon as he should be out of danger, to do every thing that was proper in that respect. He therefore went to her; and having blubbered till she thought him a fool, and almost told him so, closed by convincing her that he was also a knave. This was too much! Casting upon him one bitterly contemptuous look, she left the apartment; and while he sat in stupor, vainly trying to think what he should do, she had hastened to the house of her guardian. He began to think at last that he must pack up his things at least, if only to be in readiness; but by the time he had finished this, he found himself attended by several ill-looking gentlemen, with the warrant of a magistrate to commit him for examination!

The greatest fool has generally some sense of shame. He was almost distracted to think that his name and crime should be blazed in all the newspapers, and read by every one by whom he wished to have been respected. He was carried to the house of a bailiff for the night; and as these places soon extinguish lights, he had ample time to reflect upon his *incorrigible folly* in *every single circumstance*. Even to himself it appeared endless as it was inconceivable; and he threw himself upon the bed in an agony of shame and repentance. He acknowledged to himself that he could follow no right advice in any one particular, far less act rightly for himself.

As he, above all things, wished to escape public examination, and he had seen that the doors were so secured as to render egress in that way impossible, he determined to try the window. For this purpose he got up; and having placed the table under the window, and such props as he could find, upon it, he mounted, and opened the casement to reconnoitre. To his surprise he found that though there were bars set into the wall, they were not strong; probably from the height of the apartment, or from its opening into a yard, about as secure as the house; but these things did not occur to our friend. He therefore set himself to force out the bars, that he might see from what height he had to fall; and he succeeded. He now stretched up at all his length to ascertain the height, but a man with a wooden leg, however well made, does not act so freely as a man whose supports are natural. Just as our friend, therefore, had satisfied himself that his escape was hopeless, and was drawing back his head, the support of his feet gave way, and his head being caught between the casement and its frame, he hung suspended at a height of several feet!

As the casement opened outwards, his weight only increased the certainty of its hold. It seemed certain that he would soon be relieved from all farther trouble. Indeed, he felt that he deserved to be hanged; he was so utterly incorrigible. But it was otherwise ordered.

The bailiffs, always on the alert to secure, and even keep alive people whom it would be charitable to allow to escape or die, heard the noise, and were instantly in the apartment. Thinking of nothing but to pull the man back into the den, they had almost destroyed in the act of endeavouring to secure him, by pulling him down instead of lifting him up; but a groan soon apprised them that he was suspended. A light being procured, they soon released him, but found that he was in a state of insensibility.

Medical aid was obtained, and he was at last recovered so far as to breathe; but the idea of an examination was out of the question. The old merchant's address being found upon the letter that had been obtained through him, he was sent for; and having met with the lady's guardian, they soon came to an understanding. The former marriage, though involuntary, was indisputable; that point, therefore, was settled. The man, though a criminal, was a fool; that also was settled; and the old gentleman took care to say nothing of his inheriting the slightest property, and he himself fortunately could not blab for the present. It was, therefore, resolved, as the best way of settling a bad business, that the lady should immediately return to her friends, as the climate of this country was evidently too cold for her—and she returned accordingly.

In the meantime, our friend Nicholas had in so far recovered, as that he could sit in the sun in a chair, and even turn his head, though not without pain. It was universally believed that he had wished to destroy himself, and, though that was not the fact, he half inclined to let it be understood, that people might be more gentle with him. He agreed to live in England, to the great relief of his father—and his wife and child joined him; and though he never experienced what could be called happiness, yet he was so far happy from not expecting it. He had ease and competence, with a careful, almost an affectionate nurse; and having no charge of money, nor opportunity of wasting it, he got by degrees into the reputation of a respectable invalid; and, dying at last without encumbering his estate, he was considered as not the most unfavourable specimen of the family of Badenoch.

His second wife, not relishing the idea of returning to her friends with such a character as she knew she must carry with her, married the master of the vessel in which she had embarked, and never set foot in Jamaica.

A feeling so strong as this indicated, interested her friends in her behalf, and they gave her a sum sufficient to set her husband forward in his profession. Thus prospering, and with a woman naturally good hearted, and now painfully instructed, handsome, moreover, and accomplished far beyond his hopes, he was tolerably well off; and though her fortune was not brilliant, she had the means of humble happiness, and was contented. Her only regret was, that she had ever been connected with the name of Badenoch.

It would appear, from all together, that stupidity is worse than witchcraft; that there is no witchcraft so destructive as stupidity. That without proper training, the world is a world of pitfalls, while with it there are few situations in which opportunities of happiness do not present themselves—in short, that conduct is fate, misfortune too often but another name for folly; and bewitching for good or ill but another mode of indicating good or bad conduct—at least such was the opinion of my uncle.

#### WALTER-SCOTTIANA.

It was stated in our Life of Sir Walter Scott that the title of his Thesis was not mentioned in the minutes of the Faculty of Advocates, at the place where his admission into that body was recorded. We have now not only learned the title of his Thesis, but obtained the use of a copy; and as it is curious, both on general and particular considerations, we have resolved to present an English translation to our readers. The title-page is as follows:—

JURIDICAL DISCOURSE,  
On the 24th head of the 48th book of the Pandects,

Concerning the BODIES OF CRIMINALS,

which,

under divine favour,

by authority of the most illustrious and learned

HENRY ERSKINE

of Newhall,

Dean of the Honourable Faculty of Advocates,

and also

With the permission and by decree of the said Faculty,

was submitted to public discussion,

in order to obtain the office of Advocate,

by

WALTER SCOTT, AUTHOR AND RESPONDENT,

On the 10th day of July, at the usual hour and place.

Edinburgh:

From the press of Balfour and Smellie,

Printers to the Faculty of Advocates.

M.DCC.XCII.

After an imprimatur from William Miller and David Williamson, now Judges under the respective designations of Lord Glenlee and Lord Balgray, follows the dedication:—

To the Honourable ROBERT MACQUEEN

of Braxfield,

Lord Justice Clerk,

and a most meritorious Judge in the Court of Session;

a faithful as well as skillful lawyer,

and therefore

distinguished equally by prudence and impartiality

in the discharge of these offices,

both in punishing crimes with due severity,

and in restoring and vindicating the rights of the

oppressed;

These Juridical Theses are dedicated

with the highest respect,

by

Walter Scott.

The body of the work then follows; and we may mention that it is an unusually short juridical discourse:—

#### INTRODUCTION.

It would almost appear that there is implanted in mankind a certain care and solicitude for the decent burial of the body after death, as if on the disposal of it in some measure depended the condition of the soul. For among all the nations hitherto discovered, not one has been found in which some funeral ceremonies, however dissimilar, did not prevail. This anxiety is indeed the natural consequence of the various doctrines concerning the state of the dead, and the migration of souls, held by different tribes.

The opinion of the Romans on this subject appears from the following lines of Virgil:—

The ghosts rejected are the unhappy crew  
Deprived of sepulchres and funerals due;  
The boatman, Charon; those the buried host  
He ferries over to the farther coast;  
Nor dares his transport vessel cross the waves  
With such whose bones are not composed in graves.  
A hundred years they wander on the shore,  
At length, their penance done, are wafted o'er.

DRYDEN.

The opinions of the Stoics also leaned the same way. Lipsius, in the 9th dissertation of his third book *De Physiologia Stoica*, has shown from various authors that they considered the soul to be nothing else than a particle of ethereal fire. Burning was therefore held by the Stoics to be the shortest and most compendious way of unloosing the souls of the dead from the earth, and of enabling them to rejoin their proper element—namely, ethereal fire (*Macrobius*, book 1st, chapter 9th; *Martian. Capella*, book 2d, *De Nupt. Phil.*). If the body was not consumed, it was believed that the sorrowful spirit lingered round the corpse, and did not ascend to heaven till the last honours had been duly paid (*Pliny, Nat. Hist.* book 7th, chapter 52d). But if a person had been drowned in the sea, it was thought the soul of fire was completely extinguished by the contrary element.

It is not therefore surprising that the exposure of the body should be denounced against the more atrocious criminals as the severest possible infliction. Hence was probably derived the punishment of parcide, described in § 6. *Instit. de Pub. Jud.*, and dwelt upon in such emphatic language by Cicero in his oration for Roscius. He who had deprived a parent of life was sewed up in a leathern sack, along with a viper, an ape, a dog, and a cock, conveyed to the sea-side on a cart drawn by black oxen, and cast into the deep, that the water gaining admission by degrees, might extinguish him. Thus while alive he was deprived of the power of breathing, and when dead, rejected by the earth, and tossed between sea and shore; he underwent, according to the Stoics, the death and destruction of the soul as well as of the body. Against robbers also, and those convicted of treason, this last doom is threatened (book 28th, § 15. *D. de Pana.*) The bodies or ashes of traitors were thrown into the Tiber; but robbers were fixed to a cross, to remain the sad memorials of their crime and punishment.

Although the introduction of Christianity abolished the doctrines of the Stoics, these laws were not abrogated. For as we have been accustomed to feel the utmost horror at the sight of a corpse unburied and decaying, so we are willingly led to believe that some kind of intercourse still subsists between this body and the soul; in consequence of which the latter, so long the guest and companion of the former, sympathizes, in some degree, with whatever injuries and contumely are inflicted upon it. And, indeed, from the very dawning of Christianity, an opinion prevailed that the connexion between soul and body is not wholly dissolved by death, but that souls cherish a certain affection for their terrestrial reliefs, hover round, and never cease to protect them.

The exposure of the bodies of criminals was ordered, however, not so much to punish the dead, as for a warning to the living. For what is calculated to strike greater terror into those who meditate unholy deeds, as the loathsome, foul, and livid corpses of those who have undergone sentence for similar crimes, exposed to be the prey of fowls and wild beasts?

By the municipal law of Scotland, the exposure of the bodies of those who have been hanged on the accursed tree, in some cases, especially on account of the crimes of murder or homicide, is in like manner appointed. In modern times, however, the custom, certainly to be approved, has become frequent among us of delivering such bodies to anatomists to be dissected for the an-

vantage of medicine. In this manner criminals are not only stigmatized with deserved infamy, but, at the same time, good is elicited from evil, the bodies of those who, when alive, made it their study to produce loss and the worst of evils to the state, being, when dead, converted to beneficial purposes.

## THESIS I.

Among the Romans the bodies of condemned persons could not be interred unless permission were obtained from the prince or judge (book 1st, *D. huj. tit.*) It might be obtained, however, if petitioned for, unless in regard to the more atrocious criminals, concerning whom we shall afterwards treat (book 2d, *D. huj. tit.*) Thus in the New Testament we find Pilate readily granting the blessed body to Joseph of Arimathea. See also book 11th, *C. De Religiosis*, and book 3d, *huj. tit.*

## THESIS II.

In a few cases, however, the privilege of burial was denied to the bodies of the condemned. Many lawyers (legislators) ordained that noted highwaymen or robbers should after death be fixed on gibbets in the places where they resorted; both that the mournful spectacle might deter others from the same outrages, and that the infliction of punishment in the spot where the murders had been perpetrated might afford consolation to the relatives and friends of those who had been slain (book 28th, *D. de Penit. § 15*). Sometimes even these enemies of the human race were sentenced to be cast to wild beasts, in the bloody jaws of which they found a bloody grave.

But, in particular, sepulture was denied to traitors (book 1st, *D. huj. tit.*, book 11th, *D. de his qui notant. infamia*; book 35th, *C. de Religiosis*). The bodies or ashes of those guilty of treason were to be thrown into a river.

## THESIS III.

Finally, the bodies of exiles, or of those confined in an island, who died in banishment, were not to be transported to another place or buried, unless the permission of the prince were specially asked and obtained (book 2d, *D. huj. tit.*). Permission to this effect was very frequently granted by rescripts, as is testified from the same law by Marcian.

## ANNEXED POINTS.

## I.

A mandatory, if he exceeds the limits of his instructions, cannot maintain an action.

## II.

An oath concerning crimes cannot be given by proxy.

## III.

An oath contains a sort of bargain.

## IV.

An action for expenses incurred is not competent to a possessor who has not acted in the best faith.

## V.

A father may appoint a tutor even to a disinherited son.

## VI.

An accused person may be twice put to the torture on suspicion of the same crime.

## VII.

An agreement to make a partnership pass to heirs is not valid.

Lady Scott one day speaking of a person who had been very fortunate in life, seemed to impute a good deal of his success to luck. "Ah, Mamma!" said Sir Walter (he often addressed his wife familiarly by the term *Mamma*), "you may say as you like; but take my word for it, 'tis skill leads to fortune."

Lady (then Mrs) Scott had a rich piece of cake, which she presented upon a salver to a glass of wine, and which, not being cut into *nibbleable* pieces, had been long permitted to remain entire, and had been presented and re-presented times without number to successive visitors, till her husband at length became quite tired of seeing the same piece so often, and one day remarked, when a guest was present, "Really, Charlotte, this piece of cake of yours is beginning to make me an *auld man*!"

Sir Walter resembled every man of true greatness of mind, in his deep respect for the illustrious Johnson. This is apparent throughout all his prose works, in which he never misses an opportunity of introducing a quotation from the "great moralist." Being one day in company when the various merits of Johnson's imitators were discussed, "Ay, ay," said he, "many of them produce his report, but which of them carries his bullet?" This is one of the most beautiful testimonies that one great mind ever bore to the greatness of another; and the metaphor in which it is conveyed is, in addition, singularly appropriate to the forcible character of Johnson's writings. We have been informed that Sir Walter was often heard to express his admiration of Dr Johnson, and, on one occasion, in the presence of several persons, he took out a volume of his works, and read "The Vanity of Human Wishes" in a tone which showed how deeply he felt the beauties and acquiesced in the truths of that fine moral poem.

Sir Walter said to a friend one day (long before the Waverley secret was divulged), "Man, do you ken what was the first book that was lent out in the circulating libraries at sixpence a-night?" The individual thus addressed did not know what to say, for

he had never heard of any book but the Author of Waverley's novels being lent at that enormous charge. Sir Walter, however, soon relieved him by saying, "Man, it was *Bruce*," meaning Bruce's *Travels into Abyssinia*, which, being a very expensive book (1s. 7s. 7s.), was charged proportionably high by the librarians.

Sir Walter told the following anecdote to a gentleman, who immediately afterwards related it to one of the Editors of this paper:—"When Marmion came out, it made a considerable noise, and had its day, no doubt; and many people went to Flockton Field; so that an honest fellow thought it would be a good speculation to set up a public-house upon the spot, for the accommodation of the visitors: and he sent to me, asking me to write a few lines for a sign he was going to erect, thinking, as his letter told me, that any thing from me would have a good effect. I sent him back word, that I was at present a good deal occupied; but begged to suggest, as a next best, a quotation from the book which had occasioned his undertaking, which, I remarked, would do very well with a slight alteration—taking out the letter *r*—

"Weary stranger, rest and *pray*."

Sir Walter, who hardly ever spoke slightly of superstitious beliefs, related the following circumstance to the same gentleman:—When Abbotsford was built, the furniture was procured from London, and some of the upholsterer's men came down to put it up, and arrange it in the house. The night after all was put to rights, Sir Walter, and indeed the whole household, heard noises among the furniture in a distant part of the house, as if the workmen had still engaged in arranging it. A few days after, intelligence was received that the upholsterer had died in London.

Sir Walter also gave this gentleman a curious trait of his own personal character. He had once ridden in a chase, along side of Mr Archibald Park (brother of the celebrated traveller), when that person, observing his fearless deportment in riding (which in Sir Walter's young days was very remarkable), said to him, "Old, ye'll never halt till ye get a fa' that 'ill send ye hame wi' yere feet foremost!" Sir Walter replied, that when he got upon horseback he felt himself quite changed, entering as it were upon another sort of existence, and having no power of restraint over himself. After this, who can wonder at his glowing descriptions of knights and war-horses?

He also said, that when his first two or three works were published, he felt exceedingly anxious to see the reviews, and hear how the world received him; but after that his curiosity or vanity died so much away, that he never made the least attempt to see a review, and often never heard or saw a word that was said upon the subject.

He had sent a copy of his first publication to a lady of Jedburgh, the wife of his friend Mr Robert Shortreed, who accompanied him on his tour among the Liddesdale farmers. On his next seeing her, he asked, with the solicitude of a young author, how she liked his "William and Helen." She plainly answered, "Not very much;" upon which he took up the little volume, and requested permission to read it aloud to her, in order that the composition might receive all possible advantage from his knowledge of the emphasis due to various passages. After he had done, he was somewhat provoked to find that the good lady's opinion was quite unaltered. It is somewhat curious thus to view the champion of a hundred fields in his first stage as a warrior, and anxious, as we may say, about what people thought of his way of tying on his sah.

Sir Walter was one day visiting the Ettrick Shepherd, while the Waverley authorship was still a mystery, and took a sight of his library, in which his own prose works formed a conspicuous feature, with the back-title, "SCOTT'S NOVELS." "What a stupid fellow of a binder you must have got, Jamie," exclaimed Sir Walter, "to spell Scots with two *t*'s!"

A Methodist congregation at Kelso, when some repairs were about to be made upon their chapel, sent some of their number about through the country to get subscriptions for the undertaking. An old widow brought a subscription paper to Sir Walter. He read only the preamble and the conclusion, which bore—"and your petitioners shall ever pray;" and returned the paper to the woman with a guinea, saying only, "Well, well, my good lady, here is something for you, as I am very anxious to have the prayers of the righteous."

So *facile* was he in contributing to charitable purposes, that a Burgher congregation, about to set up a meeting-house in opposition to a country minister, who was not giving satisfaction, applied to him for a subscription towards the building. He said, "Really, I am not very favourable to such things as this, and think I shall not subscribe." To which the applicant made answer, "Come, come, now, Sir Walter; ye ken ye subscribe to mony a thing ye care as little for as this, and ye maunna begin and mak' step-bairns o' us!" "Well, well," said the good-natured poet, "here's a guinea for you." Out of all the numerous applications made to him for charity, he was hardly

\* It may be mentioned, by the way, that, besides the gig employed by the two travellers on these occasions, they sometimes also rode on horseback. Mr Shortreed generally used a grey mare, which recommended him to the young minister by its sagacity in crossing moors and mires; and it was the prototype of Dandie Dinmont's Dumble, as Sir Walter himself stated a few years ago.

ever known to refuse one; and, indeed, it is acknowledged by all who knew him that he squandered a great deal of money every year in this way.

Not long before the close of his life, while sitting to Mr Watson Gordon, he was shown a little picture by that distinguished artist, representing a battle. "This is not the thing at all," said he, in reference to the clearness and multitude of the figures; "when you want to paint a battle, you should in the first place get up a gude stour [cloud of dust]; then just put in an arm and a sword here and there, and leave all the rest to the spectator." In this sublime counsel may be said to lie the germ of all his power in the description of battles.

Like his counterpart Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott was much given to punning. Among a thousand instances of this propensity in the latter, we record one. A friend borrowing a book one day, Sir Walter put it into his hands with these words—"Now, I consider it necessary to remind you, that this volume should be soon returned, for, trust me, I find that although many of my friends are bad arithmeticians, almost all of them are good *book-keepers*."

## THE JEWS.

On the hopelessness of all attempts to convert the Jews to Christianity, Came, in his Travels in the East, thus speaks:—Great efforts have been made for some years, and much money has been spent, for the regeneration of this singular and fallen people; or rather, it should be said, for their conversion, of which their establishment in their native land is to be one of the results. The zealous and benevolent people of England have a right to dispense their donations to any land under heaven, and there is, no doubt, a peculiar charm in the idea that they are scattering them over so hollowed a country; that they are aiding to bestow on it a fresh glory, and only a portion of the last desolation of life and truth. It is a pleasure, but entire illusion. The mind of the Israelite is steeled at all points against the pure and simple faith of Christianity: he will converse and reason with the missionary in perfect good temper, and will, in most cases, give him a very civil reception in his house. We have even seen the descendants of the ancient people receive copies of the New Testament, sit on the divan by the side of their converted countrymen, listen calmly to his remonstrances and persuasions, promise to consider the weighty and long disputed subject, and read and judge of it maturely for themselves. At all sounds very plausibly and sweetly to the ear is even on the part of the happiness of the fallen Hebrew, to whom words and promises count nothing, but who in every instance stop short, sternly and decidedly, at the threshold of conversion. Long cherished devouring pride, like a spectre, stands in the way that leads to Calvary, and warns the wanderer back."

On the 3d of November it is our intention to commence the publication of a Monthly Periodical on an entirely new plan, to be called CHAMBERS' HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER; and in size and price exactly similar to the JOURNAL. This Periodical is intended to form an instructive and entertaining Monthly Miscellany, of a nature entirely distinct from the EDINBURGH JOURNAL, to which work, according to the taste of readers, it may form a useful supplement. The following are the features contemplated in the HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER.

Each Number will contain a complete and familiar view of the News, or general and local events, of the month preceding its appearance. In the composition of the Articles, an endeavour will be made to treat events rather in the dispassionate and philosophic style of history, than with the heat which immediate impressions, and imperfect intelligence, are apt to introduce into works of more frequent appearance. Occasionally, papers will be introduced, illustrative of subjects inappropriate to a literary print; in the composition, however, of these and all other Articles, the writers will sedulously avoid all partisanship; treating every subject in that simple and elementary manner, which has been so generally acceptable in the JOURNAL. The work is also intended to furnish to readers, of all classes, a ready means of refreshing their memories with details which they were perhaps only able to glance at, in their intercourse with the other Journals, during the month. If preserved, and bound up, along with the JOURNAL, or in a separate volume, it will serve the purpose of a work of reference for the occurrences of the whole year—an ANNUAL REGISTER, in fact, at half the price of a MAGAZINE.

CHAMBERS' HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER, like the JOURNAL, will be printed both in Edinburgh and London, and, if possible, published in all the large towns in Scotland and England, on the same day. The Scottish and English Editions will respectively be suited, in the matter of local intelligence, to the tastes and uses of the various countries in which they are published; and, in both cases, the news, foreign and domestic, will be brought up to the day preceding publication. The Work will be beautifully printed on a super-royal sheet, forming eight pages quarto, uniform, in size and appearance, with the JOURNAL. Being by the mode of its publication, placed beyond the scope of the taxes on the diffusion of public intelligence, it will be sold at no higher price than the JOURNAL; namely, Three-halfpence, or supplied to Subscribers, for a whole year, for One Shilling and Sixpence; and thus every man will be enabled, at least once in the month, to do that which very few can now do at any time,—purchase a Newspaper for deliberate perusal at his own fireside, and which he may retain for the use of his family.

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